



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*State Board of Retirement*  
*One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108-1607*

ROOM 1219  
(617) 367-7770  
1-800-382-6014

## **Veterans' Creditable Service**

### **Notice of Potential Benefits Pursuant to G.L. c. 32 §4(1)(h)**

- Massachusetts General Law c. 32 §4(1)(h) grants eligible honorably discharged veterans the right to purchase up to four years to add to their creditable service as a member of a retirement system due to service in the armed forces of the United States.

#### **Definition of Massachusetts Veteran**

(M.G.L. c. 4, §7, cl.43<sup>rd</sup>, as amended by Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2004, effective August 30, 2004)

To be a “veteran” under Massachusetts law a person is required to have either:

- 180** days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions  
**- or -**
- 90** days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during “wartime” per the chart below, and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

#### **War**

WWI  
WWII  
(Merchant Marine: one day between 7-Dec-41  
and 31-Dec-46)  
Korea  
Vietnam  
Lebanon Campaign\*  
Grenada Campaign\*  
Panama Campaign\*  
Persian Gulf

#### **“Wartime” Dates**

6-Apr-17 to 11-Nov-18  
16-Sep-40 to 31-Dec-46  
  
25-Jun-50 to 31-Jan-55  
5-Aug-64 to 7-May-75  
25-Aug-82 to (to be determined later)  
25-Oct-83 to 15-Dec-83  
20-Dec-89 to 31-Jan-90  
2-Aug-90 to (to be determined)

\*Naval and Marine DD-214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD-214’s must specify campaign: Lebanon, Grenada and Panama.

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For **National Guard Members** to qualify they must have 180 days and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code

**- or -**

Members who are activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code or Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 33, sections 38, 40 and 41 must have 90 days, at least one of which was during wartime, per the above chart. The members’ last discharge or release must be under honorable conditions.

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## Minimum Service Expectation (for Death or Disability)

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he/she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability, or died in the service under honorable conditions.

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## Training Duty Exception

Active Service in the armed forces as used in this clause **shall not include active duty for training** in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Veterans who also have **Active Reserve** and **Massachusetts National Guard Service** may receive creditable service for such guard/reserve service on a ratio of **five years** of such service equal to **one year** of creditable service.

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## Application

To the State Board of Retirement:

I respectfully request creditable service for my active service in the armed forces of the United States and Active Reserve or Massachusetts National Guard under the provisions of G.L. c. 32, §4(1)(h).

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Name

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Social Security #

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Phone #

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Address

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Starting Agency

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Date of Latest Membership

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Date of Honorable  
Discharge

I sign this application under the penalties of perjury. I affirm that the information presented in this application is correct, complete and accurately presented. I understand that giving false or incomplete information may subject me to the loss of my benefits as well as civil and criminal penalties.

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Procedures

You must complete this application and file it with the State Board of Retirement **no later than 180 days from the date you receive this notice**. Failure to do so may render you ineligible to purchase your military service. A copy of your federal form DD-214 is also required.

- Payment of 10% of your starting salary when you last became a member of the State Retirement System per year of creditable service being purchased is required. Payment options are available.
  - Once your eligibility has been verified you will receive written notification of (1) the years and months of service you may purchase (not to exceed four years) and (2) the amount owed.
  - No refunds are allowed after purchasing this service except by a refund of all accumulated deductions.
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